

A Screen Version of  
©CIL 17433C ✓ "The Jumping Frog" ✓

by

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Jim Smiley, a lazy, likeable old chap lives in one of the many little log cabins along the river that flows through Angels Camp. With him live his daughter Lillian and his many pets, including Nero, the turtle and Daniel Webster, the frog. It is on the frog he lavishes most of his time, giving it daily lessons in jumping in an endeavor to make it "the greatest jumping frog in Calaveras County". He is always ready to make a bet on any of his pets and Lillian who feels the pinch of poverty because of his laziness and his many losses hates the pets that are always underfoot and hopes and prays that in some way he may be cured of the habit of betting.

One bright morning as she is standing over her father who is sitting on the ground, exercising Daniel Webster and paying but little heed to her anger, she looks up to see Sam Holden approaching on his burrough. Sam has been grub-staked by her father and has been for some months in the hills working the claim of which he and Jim were equal partners. Running to him she greets him with affection and he shows her a handfull of nuggets which prove the mine to be one of great value. She is delighted and when he asks if she will marry him now, she agrees to do so if her father will consent.

Jim looking up sees the two and ~~xxx~~ rises to greet Sam while Lillian stays by the gate. After showing the nuggets, Sam asks for the girl but Jim tells him that to get his consent he will have to win it. Disgusted at having to get his consent in such a manner and at Jims lack of interest in the mine and

his intense interest in the frog, Sam departs for the saloon, "The Nugget", to tell the boys of the strike.

After setting up the drinks for the house he sees Slim Powell the gambler, cheating in a card game and it occurs to him that Slim might help him to put something over on the old man if he will. Asking to see him in the next room, Slim tells him to lead the way. Knowing that he has been caught cheating, he takes no chances and pulls a gun to protect himself when Sam suddenly faces him in the anti-room. Finding that all Sam wants to talk about is his girl they laugh and Slim says he will help.

As they enter the bar room again they ~~not~~ see Jim at the bar and there is a bet on with the bartender as to the lighting of the first fly on the bar. If it lights on Jim's side first he buys and if on the other the drinks are on the house. Sam and Slim join the men at the bar and ask Jim what he has in the can he has brought. He shows them Daniel Webster and says he is a wonderful jumper. The gambler draws him on until he claims that Daniel will out jump any frog in these parts and at Slims insistance, Sam says he would take the bet if he had a frog but not having one he can not. Jim offers to get one. After he departs Slim takes Daniel Webster and a bottle of buck shot into another room where he loads him and returning gives him to the bartender to keep. When Jim returns with the frog he has caught at the river, the bar tender places Daniel Webster on the bar. The deeds to the mine are put down and the new frog, caught for Sam is placed beside Daniel but before there is time to think, Sam's frog has cleared the papers while Daniel sits heavily where he was placed.

Sam in excitement rushes to the cottage getting Lillian they run down the road to the minister's home where they are married. Back in the bar, Jim discovers what has hap-



pened and after a few minutes starts in pursuit. He is too fat to make time and arrives just as the last words are said. He approaches in anger, but Lillian with her arms around his neck tells him, it was done to cure him of betting, while Sam holds out the papers offering to<sup>re</sup> turn the deed to the mine. After a little inward struggle Jim tells him to keep it as it is all in the family and with his hand raised he swears that he is cured of betting. The picture fades out on the happy faces of Father, daughter and son.

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